

Progress

Feb No. 4

Since the previous issue on Greenwork a number of opinions have been expressed within Auroville concerning the inclusion of three communities: Pitchandikulam, Utilite and Auro-Orchard. These opinions were communicated both privately and in a Pour Tous general meeting and reflected different, often opposing point of view. It was finally agreed that the matter should be referred to the twelve member Cooperative. Here it was decided that these three communities should, for the present, be excluded from Progress and other publications and that an explanation of the position of these communities vis-a-vis the collective should appear in this issue. The reasons for the decision are as follows:

In the case of Pitchandikulam. The person responsible for its development has involved himself in actions in alliance with the Sri Aurobindo Society that are in direct opposition to the interests of Auroville; it was felt that the land and the work are inseparable from this individual.

The general feeling about Utilite is that, as a community, it has by its own choice always remained strictly apart from participation in any aspect of the collective progress—works groups, financial and visa systems, etc.

Auro-Orchard is regarded more as a “friend” of Auroville than as a “participant” and again, there is a lack of involvement in any of the collective progresses. There is also opposition to the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides there—others involved in food production follow the advice given by the Mother in 1971 when she said, regarding the use of these chemicals, “ NO NONO Auroville should not fall back into old errors which belong to a past which tries to revive.”

It was emphasized that this statement and the attitude it reflects are not intended negatively; because Progress is mainly for friends outside of Auroville who may not be aware of the circumstances of internal relationships, it was felt to be necessary in the interest of clarity and affirmation of the importance of the collective experiment as basis for the physical manifestation in Auroville. It is hoped that the situation regarding these communities may change in the future.

One comment from friends abroad was that if a greater number of articles could be written by people living and working in each community a more intimate and personal feeling would be communicated. This was, in fact, one of the original aims of Progress but it seems these days most Aurovillians are fully occupied just keeping up with their work and don't have the time and energy to do it and write about it as well. However, three articles—which are especially appreciated—do appear as written by Dee, Nellie, Krishna and Vijay.

CENTER AREA

Matrimandir Construction

Work has continued steadily with the casting of the reinforced cement beams for the “space frame” of the skin. The beams are being fixed to the structure in a series of 17 ascending rings and preparations are nearly complete for cementing the third quarter of the lowest ring. Simultaneously, a large crane has been designed and built almost completely in the Matrimandir workshop and Toujours Mieux in Aspiration. When complete, it will first be tested on the ground, then taken apart and (at this point in the story hopeful looks appear on everyone's face)--- hoisted piece by piece to the top of the sphere where it will be reassembled.

For alternate energy enthusiasts.... A study has been made by Pal of the incoming solar energy falling on the Matrimandir, which being almost a sphere, has a fairly steady energy input during sunshine hours of an average of 36 kwh. Assuming the skin is covered with 2 inch diameter solar cells having 12% efficiency. When the study was shown to workers at Matrimandir, the general response was that work in this area should be continued in connection with alternative energy research already underway in Auroville as it is too premature to see how it would affect the design of the skin. One instrument that would be very helpful in this and other solar energy research is a pyranometer with a digital integrator. Any contributions towards this would be most helpful.

Activity at the construction site, the workshops and the office has been temporarily suspended since January 18 when the area was closed by local authorities. This came after a period of building tension between the Sri Aurobindo Society and Auroville due to continued threats by the SAS (in defiance of advice from law enforcement officials) to occupy the Matrimandir and install their own paid workers. The area was ordered closed to avert any possible confrontation and is still in effect at this time.

Matrimandir Office Remodeling of the office and adjoining rooms has been completed; the stained woodwork, new window and varnished bamboo create a warm and inviting atmosphere for the first time. The second room contains a model of one design idea for the gardens and provides space for Pour Tous and Matrimandir meetings.

Matrimandir Gardens and Nursery This has been a busy few months as winter is the time in the tropics for most planting and propagation, in addition to being the only time of the year we ‘velakarais’ can work all day in the sun. About 35 new trees were added to the gardens, mostly along the road leading into the Matrimandir area. Many of these seedlings have their origin in South America or Australia and all were raised in the Nursery Gardens seed exchange program. Water supply for this and some additional outlying areas is now more efficiently supplied thanks to nearly

400m of new underground pipeline, reducing the need for long stretches of plastic hose and awkward transportation by wheel barrow.

Work around the Banyan tree was begun again by Francois to prepare for plantation of a lawn but has since been halted due to lack of funds. Much compost is needed and it is felt that the work should proceed only when the best conditions can be provided.

Matters pertaining to the development of the gardens as well as of the construction work, are regularly discussed at the weekly Matrimandir meetings. Some of the pressing, and as yet unresolved, problems of the past few months concern land use and the villagers traditionally spread their grains dry on special plots of sun-baked earth. Several of these plots have come into the gardens area as a result of land purchase or exchange of Parambok (government) land and have been "reclaimed", conservationally speaking, by Auroville making them unsuitable for drying the grain. Alternatively, the villagers have begun using the smooth, sunny brick rim of the amphitheater for this purpose, bringing their bullocks and bullock carts, cows and often whole families to camp there until the grains are dry --- a situation regarded as being anywhere from undesirable to intolerable by Aurovilians living and working in the area. It is hoped that as Parambok land is involved the local governmental departments will collaborate in finding a solution before the next harvest season.

In the Nursery special effort has gone into improving three particular plant groups: Plumerias, Hibiscus and Orchids. Many of the Plumeria (Psychological Perfection) cuttings brought back 2 ½ years ago from Hawaii and Singapore have been planted out and are beginning to flower and new cuttings were received from Waimea Arboretum in Hawaii bringing the collection to around 75 different varieties. A number of new Hibiscus plants and cuttings were obtained from the LalBagh Botanical Garden in Bangalore when Narad and Bill Imig made a trip there last month. With these plants – which represent some of the original and best hybridization work done in India – and other special hybrids given to Auroville by the American Hibiscus Society, a good basis is formed for Bill's beginning experiments in hybridizing. He has also continued to improve cultural methods; one successful experiment has been mulching with shredded coconut fibre, a material that is cheap, easily available, moisture retentive and has a soft, neat appearance.

The Orchid population has exploded recently thanks to generous gifts totaling about 2500 plants including around 100 completely new species or hybrids. Aurovilians on trips to Germany brought back several special varieties, a contribution made possible a careful selection from a grower in Thailand, and a trip by Narad and Mary Helen to Sri Lanka brought many beautiful and valuable additions as well as contacts with breeders, new tips on culture and information on how to set up a simple laboratory for seed propagation. Any future hybridization will be greatly enriched by an impressive five volume set of books just received from Matagiri in the U.S. containing the names and parentage of all the registered orchids in the

world--- (there are about 30,000 naturally occurring species and about 100,000 man-made hybrids!)

Miscellaneous news includes bunding, contouring and planting of windbreaks and several species of Cassia and Plumeria in the new fields; the new pump and well are functioning at last and the first section of pipeline has been installed; a new lamb adds another mouth to the family of woolly lawn – mowers; a gratefully received donation enabled the purchase of much needed tires for both bullock carts; John Harper has just completed a new solar heater donated by a regular visitor to Auroville, Rutledge Tompkins; and preparations are underway for the second flower show to be held this year on Auroville's twelfth birthday, February 28 and 29 (the first was last year on the Mother's birthday, February 21) .

Unity Office The story for the Resource half (or $\frac{3}{4}$) of Unity Office is mainly one of extension and refinement of the activities described in the first issue of Progress. There has been continued improvement of the physical appearance and condition of the office; new shelving units have been installed, also a new set of windows, curtains and a new filing cabinet. The library continues to grow, especially in the area of appropriate technology information, the filing system has been improved, helpful contacts with individuals, groups and organizations have been extended and publications such as the Auroville Notes, Amadhi(the Tamil counterpart to the Notes prepared by Meenakshi) and Progress continue to be printed on the duplicating machine there. Recently an article was collectively prepared on afforestation and Conservation in Auroville for the coming Spring issue of an American Magazine, The Co- Evolution Quarterly.

In the other $\frac{1}{4}$ of Unity Office one finds Joel surrounded by the paraphernalia of the land service trade diligently preparing proposals for aid in Auroville's dreams for large scale land improvement and development. One proposal has been submitted to the Tamil Nadu Forest Department for a three- year scheme for soil and water conservation on Parambok land. Creation of water retention areas such as Aurodam and extensive roadside tree plantings are examples of what can be accomplished through this scheme. A second proposal (co – ordinated with the one mentioned above) called "Land Reclamation and Community Development in Auroville "1980-81" has been submitted to Janagri (formerly known as the German FAO or Tamil Fund). This is a one year proposal covering new afforestation projects, maintenance for existing afforestation areas, soil and water conservation structures and bunding, Ayurvedic and Homeopathic dispensaries, educational facilities, agriculture and aquaculture. Recently a successful proposal has resulted in the partial funding of the Greenways Program (avenue and cycle-path plantation). Last year approximately 2 km. was initially planted and the remainder of the funds will be allocated shortly.

Others involved in land service have been continuing the preparation of base maps and as overall map showing plot boundaries and existing developments. Topographical maps are also being prepared and land – related information is being collected and collated from all communities.

SERVICES

Pour Tous Food distribution continues to flow smoothly through Pour Tous, the baskets seem a little heavier and occasionally contain pleasant surprises such as apples, celery or peanut butter. Freshly prepared mustard and a small jar of delicious mango chutney from Forecomers were also special treats that appeared recently. The fuller baskets represent a general upswing in contributions to the food envelope but unfortunately are not indicative of an all-round increase in the budget. The van is still not running due to a lack of about 300 rupees needed for minimum repairs and a regular amount for maintenance and period running expenses. Services such as the electricity and mechanical workshops are also struggling to make ends meet. New projects are not a problem as expenses are covered by project funding but work done on older, longstanding development and on comprehensive projects such as the upgrading of all electrical connections throughout Auroville, are dependent directly on the envelopes.

The Bakery The bakery has passed into a new phase with 7 – 8 Aurovilians now participating on a rotating basis. There have been some improvements in organization, both in the bakery itself in the distribution system. Experimentation is continuing to refine the sour dough bread and also to explore combinations using several new grains grown in Auroville. These grains which are similar to millet, are being stone-ground in Aspiration and brought fresh to the bakery the following day. Other products such as granola, biscuits (cookies), jam, peanut butter and pies for special occasions continue to be made but tofu was absent for several months due to a soyabean shortage. Tofu-making has now moved to the community of Revelation and was awaited with growing curiosity as notes kept going around saying that they needed three bags of cement in order to begin. Supply resumed again this week, however, and it is as delicious as before- though it does seem a little bit firmer....

Food Cooperative Those involved in food growing had a half-year anniversary meeting to evaluate results so far. The original agreement was that each community participating should show a minimum 50% return (relative to investment) for the first year and a 10 % increase each succeeding year. (It should be remembered that organic methods, by their nature, are slower to build up production than if chemical fertilizers are used.) The average, however, for the first six months is a promising 69%. Each community was evaluated separately to see the relationship of productivity to soil conditions, cultural methods and facilities such as water supply and equipment. Estimates will be prepared where improvement is needed and collective proposals will be framed for the generation of necessary funds.

The Cooperative Another service that is important to mention is the Cooperative. Unlike the Food Coop. and Milk Coop. which are made up of people involved in a specific area of work, the Coop. is a twelve member group primarily (but not strictly) comprised of people chosen to represent other groups and activities. Matters are brought to the Coop. either through one of the members or directly to the weekly meetings. Specifically, the function of the group is to provide a link

between the community as a whole and outside individuals or organizations such as visa officials, etc. In additions, internal matters are referred to the Coop. in situations where additional information or outside help is needed, or when it is felt that a problem can be more effectively brought into focus by preliminary discussion in a small group representing a variety of points of view. But in a broader sense the Coop. is an experimental movement towards the evolution of a non- governmental but effective social organization – a sort of collective administration. It is not a decision- making body except in instances when it is asked by the community to do and the results of discussions in the meetings are constantly shared with the community through the Auroville Notes, the weekly Pour Tous meetings and personal contact with Coop. members.

Multi-purpose Health Center The health center has moved from the weather station into a more convenient room at Certitude and is in regular use. Dr.KamlaTewari and Eleanor Lovitt are available in the clinic can also be used on a self-help basis. Biochemic, ayurvedic, homeopathic and allopathic medicines are available, also the Bach flower remedies. Anyone interested and willing to offer their knowledge and experience in any aspect of medicine and health care is invited to participate.

CHILDREN

Center Playground-School There is a smaller but very happy group of children (about 17) now attending the Center Playground. Ulla, who has come from Germany, has regular math and English grammar sessions each morning upstairs for the 8-9 year old group while the younger children have games, painting, etc. downstairs. Shradhavan and Gordan are no longer there but several new people have joined; there are now about six adults participating in a regular schedule with several others part-time for body-movement, geography-history-life science (according to the interest of the children), gardening, swimming lessons in Kottakarai and nature and plant exploration in the Matrimandir Nursery. Seedlings of annual flowers in pots, collages and paintings of plants and flowers and other creations are being prepared for the “children’s section” in the flower show being held in the Nursery.

Ami There are now seven girls staying permanently in Amin Nellie has just left for a visit in England and a new girl named (appropriately) Amy, has joined. Nikko is still there and Martin will return when she has finished house-sitting for Angad in Kottakarai. Math classes are given by Gordon, and Kiran and Meike come several times a week to help with gymnastics. In addition, the girls go out to other communities for activities that especially interest them. One of these is a study of history through art --- architecture at Gratitude. In their present study of Japan they are sewing kimono and experimenting with ikebana and bonsai.

Wildlife at Gratitude (by Nellie, age 13) During the Christmas holidays a pair of young Peafowl became new residents in Gratitude. Named Kameshwara and Kameshwari, they have adjusted well and are outside during the day.

Towards the end of the monsoon, work was begun on excavating a lake, the top-soil banked up alongside the garden area. A pair of kingfishers (*Halcyon smyrnensis fusca*) have taken advantage of this and consciously chosen the exposed bank as their new home where visitor's, students and friends can "participate " by watching the excavation – and hopefully the rearing of their young. Best viewing time is before 9:00 a.m.

A pair of Tickell's Blue Flycatchers (*Muscicapa Tickelliae Tickelliae*), never before seen in this area, have been regular bathers at the pond for the past month. Also the Golden Orioles (*Oriolus Kundoo sykes*) have returned to Auroville on schedule for their nesting season and will remain with us until their fledglings are strong enough to join in the migration north, which usually begins around mid-summer.

The latest generation of baby Monitor Lizards have successfully reached approximately three feet in length. One of them lives in the hollow of a tree a few feet from Dietra's house, however, the mother Monitor has not been seen for several months.

Ending on a note of beauty, some 50 hybrid tea- rose bushes have been planted amidst Gardenias, Hibiscus, dwarf lemons and ample "Protection" (*Bougainvillea*). At the time of writing they are in full bloom!



HANDICRAFTS

Fraternity In the community of Fraternity something always seems to be happening. The pottery has been relocated in Aspiration and the woodcraft section has joined with a group from New Creation (including Andre from Boutique d' Auroville in Pondy) that has been working with paper mache to form a new unit

under Artisans Trust called New Creation Fraternity Crafts. Always a natural stop for visitors to Auroville, the community is now looking for new and more satisfactory ways of receiving and accommodation) are available for those interested in participating in the activities of the community during their stay. The Boutique is open to those passing through and an Indian style snack-bar-tea-shop has opened recently for Fraternity workers and visitors. The new, attractive community kitchen is functioning smoothly for Aurovilians from Fraternity and Auroelectronics with the cooking shared among those participating.

Artisans Trust has recently purchased 2.15 acres of land (another piece of approximately 2 acres is in process of being purchased) adjacent to Fraternity. Part of the land is lovely area with several huge banyan trees and has been suggested as a possible future site for a school. Blueprints are being prepared for a new complex of workshops near this area, one structure to initially house a weaving unit of four looms is now under construction. A well has been dug and is temporarily in use with a hand pump; a submersible pump will be installed when electric connections are completed. With this well and others in Fraternity, water supply will be adequate to permit extensive planting during the coming year of windbreaks and forest trees.

One challenging project for Fraternity –and Lisa from Auro-Sarjan who is living and participating in the community – is to provide for the children of the Tamil workers. A school is the most obvious answer but not a simple one as the villages from which most of the children come are extremely impoverished even by Indian standards. Before teaching, or learning, can even be attempted, basic needs such as reasonably adequate diet and personal cleanliness must be provided. In the past few weeks efforts have been made to improve the program involving about 52 children between the ages of 2.5 to all years. All receive a noon meal (the youngest also receive a cup of milk), a daily bath, help in keeping their hair clean and combed, and are gradually being outfitted with T-shirts and shorts or dresses. All participates in a sport program each afternoon, an art class is given once a week by Lisa and on Saturdays the whole group goes to Last School in Aspiration for music, body-movement, rhythm and games.

For other activities, the children are divided into four groups according to age; the crech for ages up to 3.5; kindergarten for ages 3.5 to 6, where the children begin learning simple language and physical skills and participate in organized games; the 6 to 8 year old group begins reading and writing in Tamil and English, also some botany and zoology, and all will be given an opportunity to learn to ride a bicycle, a seemingly simple skill but one that can mean a great deal to a child with almost no other possibility of moving out of his own village.

The program for the older children is more demanding. One Tamil teacher has been giving some regular classes in Tamil medium and a new teacher has arrived this week. Here again, basic subjects such as language and math are offered but there is special emphasis on helping the children develop an interest and skill in crafts. Fraternity workshops offer a variety of possibilities and collaboration with other

communities could open up still more as well as help the children integrate more easily into Auroville. Several children from Aspiration and a group of boys from Udayam also come regularly to the school. It is hoped that a more integrated program can grow to involve more Auroville children and children from the village whose parents do not work at Fraternity. The only condition set for these other village children would be that their parents make contact with the school once a month so that they will have an opportunity to learn more about Auroville, the aims of the school and the activities of the children. At the same time the school can better understand the children's backgrounds and learn where there may be health or other problems.

The result so far has been good—but much more is needed. The diet could still be improved—it would be especially interesting to see what could be done with a basis of Soya—and the hygiene efforts would be much more effective if coupled with regular, periodic medical assistance. Development of the sports ground and track (which would also provide a safe place for learning bicycle riding) would help to stimulate interest in physical fitness and invite more possibilities for integration with Aurovillians through sports. People, supportive materials and funds are necessary; so far financial support covering basic maintenance has come from Artisana Trust but this is not sufficient for further development or large expenses. Classes are now being held in unused corners of the workshops but simply constructed, separate rooms are needed. A library is being started and any appropriate materials would be appreciated, especially magazines for children or ones with photos that can be cut out. Participation by more Aurovilians, even on a part-time basis is welcomed.

Varuna Varuna has gone through a succession of temporary workshops; the most recent location is also too small for three crocheting ladies, one cobbler and two or three Aurovilians so they are still looking for a better place. Two new shoe styles have evolved – one is fully crocheted for women and the other is crochet-and-leather combination for men. They would like to make more leather sandals as the cobbler does this work very well but the price of leather is becoming prohibitive.

Santhosam Valerie has added two tailors to her workshop and is making a new overblouse style from soft Kashmir wool decorated with her characteristic, delicate cross-stitch embroidery. For Aurovilians – who aren't planning a trip to the Himalayas this year – she is also making the new blouse in cotton!

Bellaura Craft (by Dee) The leatherwork and belt weaving workshop at Fertile Windmill suffered the loss of two of its best boys: our most talented carver followed his managerial aspirations and joined the office at Incense d' Auroville in Aspiration; our most nimble apprentice was caught using his clever hands to make a hole in the storeroom and reach into the cash box! However, new trainees are learning quickly, and with the two remaining skilled, all-round craftsmen we're developing a special book cover for the precious but fragilely bound volume of Mother's Agenda.

Export orders from Findhorn contacts for rainbow belts have allowed us to give non- strenuous home-loom work to our very good kitchen 'amma' who's pregnant but still needing a job. Balasundaram's wife is learning to weave cotton and jute belts on these simple looms.

One of the nice things about the integration of a small workshop with a forest farm, is that the boys do get called out occasionally for hardwork and don't grow weak sitting all day. We talk a lot about health, diet and exercise – and instead of tea, we give guavas from the orchard and ulundu sprouts (surprisingly relished!).

GREENWORK

Greenworkers were paid a visit during most of December by Alan Grainger, secretary of the International Tree crops Institute of Brain tree, England. Alan spent a lot of time and energy trudging through infant and adolescent forests, over bunds and along windbreaks and living fences with enthusiastic evaluation. To repeat two of his more memorable statements: " I regard Auroville as one of the most advanced tree planting schemes in the entire world", and "There are more tree-freaks per square kilometer in Auroville than anywhere in the world." He also recognized that Auroville has evolved several promising new planting combinations and conservation methods and suggested that although the tree crops farming method is now well – known Auroville is one of the few places in the world practicing it extensively. But before we burst our buttons we should consider somewhat seriously and a little humbly the things he suggested about Auroville becoming a site for visiting foresters, a demonstration center for India and the world, a model for forest farms, etc. – things which are already beginning to happen on a small scale.

During his visit Alan met individually with many Aurovilians and there were two general meetings in the Matrimandir Nursery (where he stayed much of the time). At these meetings it was agreed with several community members to establish a branch of the international Tree Crops Institute in Auoville and correspondence will be handled through Unity Office. Alan plans on returning once a year to help evaluate our pro- planting projects and to see where the I.T.C.I may be able to provide practical assistance such as seed exchange, possibly including some long sought for seeds of the Carob tree.

Reports from some Greenwork communities....

New Name "New Name" is (at time of writing) the affirmed new name of Joel's place. He has planted twelve ornamental trees as part of the outer periphery of the Matrimandir Gardens and also a new area of about 1000 casuarina trees. Some adjacent land has been bunded and seeds are being collected for future planting of

windbreaks and live fences. Some of this new land is being developed for monsoon agriculture using improved local methods in collaboration with the villagers. Another much needed well is planned. In addition, several alternate energy experiments are in various stages of completion. In one, eight pressboard (something like Masonite) gores have been sewn together into a parabolic dish for a solar cooker and a search is being made for a reflective covering material. Another project is an experimental roof of pressboard in a geometric configuration like the roofs of the huts in Aspiration (the corner of a cube composed of three square surfaces) and is presently being tested by and over Joel.

Discipline Like everybody else, the residents of Discipline are back into a heavy watering and irrigation schedule. In a renewed effort towards more efficiency, organization and refinement the area is being worked sectionally with more intensive care. Ways are being implemented to upgrade the irrigation system and the practice of mixed planting of vegetables is being changed. Previously, they had experimented with alternating rows of several different vegetables in each plot but now find it more simple and effective to plant only one variety at a time in a plot and then rotate the plots to maintain the soil balance.

Amba Garden (by Krishna) In Amba Garden contour bunding has been recently completed on almost 80% of the total 35 acres (not 20 acres as originally mentioned) and old bunds have been repaired since the end of the monsoon rains. Nearly six acres have been fenced with a combination of barbed wire with granite posts and plantations of Acacia and cactus. The plan is to move the wire and posts to a new area as soon as the live fence is established. Agricultural work has been affected adversely this season for two reasons – one, that there was agitation by the Tamil community which more directly affected Amba Garden as it is nearest to the village of Kuilayapalayam; and secondly, that the long waited electrical connection for the borewell has not materialized so far. In addition, the supply from the existing domestic well in Auromodel is one third of what it was last year because construction has suddenly picked up and more residents are now living in this area. Planting of vegetables has been curtailed for the present in order to concentrate on the existing fruit trees which include 225 pineapple plants, 220 dwarf Cavendish bananas and 250 papayas that are now fruiting and over hundred custard apples, 50 guavas, 15 nellikai, 15 sapota and a large number of others.

Fertile Windmill (By Vijay) An old water tank rusting in Abri and at the Center has been recovered and made into a good water cart which is now in use 6 days a week. The bottom has to be replaced with the new sheet metal and new wheels, tyres and tubes had to be bought. Our previous water tank, very old and falling apart, was being carried on the tyre cart and the inevitable water spillage damaged both wood and steel.

A house which had been built in the place by someone else during the absence of the Fertile Windmillians was deemed over the years both unnecessary and unfit to live in. The roof was taken down and the materials used to repair other building, the

doors and windows were walled in, chicken mesh and water proof plaster added to the inside walls , 60 cubic metres of soil packed on the outside, and now when at night there is a lot of wind and the windmill tank overflows it overflows into ... this new water tank! (Kids love to hop in it when it's hot,too)

On the Hexiad - Communications – Greenways project a thousand trees have been planted along the road from the Two Banyan's 'Kolam' to the Matrimandir. One day you will cycle in the shade around here when you come to visit. A Hexiad-paid watchaman protects them from desertmakers. His name is Cullappan and he has come to live there in a hut with his wife, Vashunta.

Balasundaram, a Tamil Aurovilian who lives here with us, got married recently to Puspa so now there are eleven people in the community; nine Aurovilians and two paid workers (Cullapan and Vashunta).

Our cow had a calf and began giving about 5 l. of milk a day, plus what the calf gets .Perumal called us in the middle of the night and said worriedly that the placenta was out and calf was NOT. Being still half asleep I didn't at the moment realize that this was a physical impossibility. Eventually we discovered that the calf behind the composed pile, quiet a distance from the barn. Five minutes old, he was prancing around and exploring the place – ("Good heavens, where am I?") – his name is Laxmanan.

The windmill broke down and after three long waterless weeks was atlast repaired and now when the winds blow we smile. The fence was attacked by insects and we are experimenting with an organic pesticide made with flowers which Charlie got from Bombay. The trees keep growing all the time, to sum it up...